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4. *Raising of grants to schools.*

Mr. A. D. Arumanayagom also represented that, under a recent ruling of Government, the grant to certain Vernacular schools was reduced from three-fourths to one-half of the teachers' salaries and consequently several of the schools suffered. The London Mission Society which had charge of most of those schools in South Travancore and the people for whom they were intended were both poor and unable to pay the balance of fifty per cent. of the salaries. He, therefore, requested that the grant might be raised to at least two-thirds of the teachers' salaries.

Dewan's reply.—The modifications made last year in the system of grants to schools were the outcome of a Conference in which all denominations and interests were duly represented. The Shanars were taken away from the list of backward classes and others were included. In regard to these latter, Government have undertaken to meet the entire cost of primary education and allotted about Rs. 17,000 on this account. It is rather too soon to think of re-considering the decision arrived at only last year after mature deliberation. However, the representation will be noted for consideration in due course.

5. *Satrom accommodation for all classes of people.*

6. *Disabilities of converts to Christianity re Inheritance.*

7. *Admission of Christian boys and girls into all Government schools.*

Mr. A. D. Arumanayagom also requested—

(1) That either the existing public *Satroms* might be thrown open to all classes of people or new *Satroms* might be built for the benefit of those who were denied the use of the existing ones:

(2) That the disabilities which converts to Christianity were labouring under in respect of rights to ancestral property might be removed by legislation which should allow maintenance to Marumakkathayom converts and regular shares to Makkathayom converts from the lower classes: and

(3) That the boys and girls of the Native Christian community in South Travancore might be admitted into all the Government schools.

Dewan's reply.—Separate *Satrom* accommodation will be provided when funds permit. The policy of Government is to provide convenience for all classes.

In regard to the admission of Christian boys and girls into Government schools, there appears to be no prohibition on the ground of Christianity. Individual cases of complaint, when brought to the notice of Government, will be duly considered.

8. *Use of Roman Catholic Bibles in Courts.*

Mr. Ouseph Kunju Avirah Tharakan (Member, Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam)

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requested that orders might be issued to the Courts for using Roman Catholic Bibles in swearing Roman Catholics.

Dewan's reply.—There is no objection to this being done.

[*Note*—It was ascertained that every criminal court is now supplied with a Roman Catholic Bible.]

9. Abolition of tax in kind.

Mr. Paul Daniel (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) said that the present system of levying part of the land tax in kind was very inconvenient to the ryot and gave much scope for unjust exaction on the part of the tax collector. The Government too, he said, did not seem to gain much, for they kept a large and expensive establishment for the purpose of collecting the tax, spent a large sum of money for taking the paddy from the chief stores to the several religious and charitable institutions and also incurred loss on account of the deterioration of the paddy stored in granaries, wastage, and other causes. He requested that the whole of the tax in kind might be converted into money or, if that could not be done, at least three-fourths of the tax might be levied in coin and one-fourth in kind so far as Nanjenaad was concerned. This, he said, would make taxation in Nanjenaad about equal to that in North Travancore.

Dewan's reply.—As stated in my address the subject is under the consideration of Government and you will have an early solution of this long-pending question.

10. Uniformity in weights and measures.

Mr. S. Swamy Aiyengar (Member, Merchants of Trivandrum) said that the weights and measures in use varied in different parts of the country and it was urgently necessary to adopt a common standard. He requested that the weights and measures to be used by the people might be stamped by the Government.

Mr. Paul Daniel (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) supported the request.

Dewan's reply.—A Weights and Measures Bill is before the Legislative Council and every endeavour will be made to pass a law on the subject.

11. Timely inspection of fields on failure of crops.

Mr. N. Velayudhaperumal Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) requested that, in cases of failure of crops, the officers concerned might be ordered to inspect the fields in time for the ryots to begin their agricultural operations for the next crop. He explained that the want of such timely inspection put the ryots to loss and inconvenience, as they could not begin work for the following season until the inspection was over.

Dewan's reply.—Orders will issue for the timely inspection of crops by the village officers.

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